

power of her ideas and the strength of her convictions. She will be a formidable and fabulous whip. She will even be able to keep me in line; and I congratulate her and I applaud her, and I am proud to call her my colleague and friend.

#### PLIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF KLAMATH BASIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is not the first time I have come to the well to address the House and my colleagues about the terrible plight of the people of the Klamath Basin in Oregon and northern California.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, on April 6 of last year, the water was cut off to the farmers at Klamath Basin. Some 1,400 farms were affected. The decision was unprecedented. Never in the near-hundred-year history of this water project run by the Bureau of Reclamation had the water been totally cut off; but a new scientific analysis and decisions by the various agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marines Fisheries Service, said, sorry, there is not enough water for the farmers. We have to maintain the highest lake levels we have ever maintained to protect sucker fish, and then we have to release water later on in greater amounts than we have before to provide water for the Koho salmon, which are in danger.

Mr. Speaker, a number of us, especially the farmers and ranchers in the basin, argued against that, saying that there was no scientific evidence to prove that this was necessary; but those arguments fell on deaf ears. Later in the spring, the chairman of the House Committee on Resources agreed to let us have a field hearing in the Klamath Basin. Thousands of people turned out. Thousands of people turned out for that hearing, Mr. Speaker; and at that time we raised these issues and said the science just did not add up to the decisions that were being made.

We called for the Department of the Interior to get peer review of that science. We also held a rally where close to 18,000 people, in a county of 60,000, turned out. They called it the "bucket brigade," where we talked about the farm families. The veterans who were lured to this area by the same Federal Government with a promise of water for life, they were asked to come settle this project, this reclaimed land, guaranteed water to grow their crops to expand the Nation; but no water did they get this year, virtually none.

So the fields dried up. We can see the sand here and a wheel line in the sand. There was so much sand and dust that there were traffic accidents that came about, but the biggest accident that came about were the bankruptcies and

the losses that devastated this area. Oregon State University said \$134 million of potential economic loss. Bankruptcies like the Carleton family, third generation in the basin, they had farmed there three generations.

This administration, this Congress responded with a little bit of economic assistance, saying, here we will help a little bit, \$20 million into the basin and \$134 to \$200 million economic hit. This poor gentleman, when he got that, the money went to the bankruptcy court. He got stuck with a \$60,000 tax bill out of \$122,000 in emergency aid.

I tell my colleagues that just to show the devastation not only to the environment of the farm country but the families who lived there; but the most important fact came out this weekend, Mr. Speaker, when the National Academy of Sciences finally finished their review of the data and the decisions.

Do my colleagues know what that showed, Mr. Speaker? It showed there was no scientific justification for the high lake levels or for dumping the water in the Klamath River. This is the article out of the Herald and News, irrigation cut off was not justified.

The damage done to these people is extraordinary. Some of it can never be undone. The decisions were flawed. They were based on science that did not add up to the decisions that were made.

Further, had we not had this outside peer review by the National Academy of Sciences, we would have continued down a road of dumping potentially lethally hot water into the Klamath River, killing the very Koho salmon this whole plan was supposed to fix and help. The National Academy of Sciences said one of the reasons that these Koho are surviving in this rather warm river complex to begin with is probably due to natural seepage and some cold water springs where they can go off into micro-habitat and survive.

The plan that the National Marine Fisheries Service wanted us to follow which denied water to the farmers said dump warm reservoir water into this same river system. In effect, pollute this river with warm water at the worst time of the year, providing lethal water to the salmon.

Mr. Speaker, if there was ever a poster child for the need for reforming of the Endangered Species Act to have precisely this kind of peer review of the science, it is the Klamath Basin.

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Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, if this government owes any debt to anyone, it is to the farmers and ranchers in this basin whose livelihoods were robbed from them, whose fields turned up dry, some of whom left; and I have not even talked about the farm-worker families that had to leave.

During the bucket brigade rally, where 18,000 showed up, a Hispanic farm worker came up to me in the high school ball field where we had all gath-

ered, tears in his eyes, and told me he had come to this country some 20, 25 years before and gotten a job on a farm in this basin the next day. He had raised his family, educated his kids, and worked every day since, until that week, when he had lost his job.

A terrible wrong has been committed here. We have an obligation and a responsibility to make it right.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI, MEMBER OF CONGRESS, NEW MINORITY WHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of South Carolina). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate and honor our new minority whip, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), I also must really thank her for being such a role model. As a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a friend to many, a great humanitarian and a phenomenal leader, Ms. PELOSI has really demonstrated that women can do it all at the same time.

NANCY PELOSI's congressional district is right across the Bay Bridge from my district. Her constituents have recognized her intellect, her passion, and her coalition-building ability by electing her to the House of Representatives eight times. Now, as minority whip, these same attributes and values will be brought to our leadership team to meet the challenges of this new millennium.

No one is more qualified to lead than Ms. PELOSI. She understands that education is the soundest investment we can make as a Nation to secure our future. She understands that access to quality health care, affordable housing, job and pension security, and a commitment to fighting the global HIV/AIDS pandemic are essential to our economic and national security. And she knows that job security and economic security are not Democratic or Republican issues, but American issues that deserve bipartisan support.

As a true leader on international issues, Ms. PELOSI cares about our foreign policy and fights to ensure that our foreign aid is directed toward the betterment of humankind. She has been a powerful and relentless ally in the fight to eradicate HIV/AIDS in San Francisco as well as in Africa and throughout the world. Her deep commitment to civil rights and civil liberties here at home and her unwavering support for human rights abroad have given us all a standard for justice and equality.

On October 10, 2001, exactly 90 years to the day after women won the right to vote in California, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) was elected by her colleagues to become our Democratic House whip, the highest ranking woman in the 212-year history of this institution.